Religious Life of our School

Religious Education at Sts Peter and Paul's School comprises two distinct but complementary dimensions - teaching people religion and teaching people to be religious. Teaching people Religion is an educational activity focused on the teaching and learning of Religion and utilising a range of learning processes and resources.

Sts Peter and Paul's acknowledges that the educational dimension and the faith formation dimension are inextricably linked.

Teaching people to be religious is identified within the Religious Life of the School and is a faith development activity focused on nurturing the religious, spiritual and faith growth of students. There are four components that make up the Religious Life of the School (Religious Identity and Culture; Evangelisation and Faith Formation; Prayer and Worship; and Social Action and Justice). Each component is interrelated and mutually reinforcing, focusing on a specific aspect of the school's practices. At Sts Peter and Paul's students are involved in many varied opportunities to form and practise their faith in these areas.
Religious Identity and Culture:

- Each school day begins with classroom prayer. Many classes light a candle at this time, incorporating it as part of their daily prayer time and as a lead-in to discussion/guided prayer/meditation.
- Sts Peter and Paul’s has a school song and prayer specifically written for our community and each class group develops a class covenant of behavioural expectations at the beginning of the year.
- Each Wednesday morning the school community gathers for our school assembly. A student from each class is recognised as Child of the Week, often demonstrating one of our ‘Be A Great Learner’ Dispositions.
- There are sacred spaces in every classroom and around the school grounds.
- Students participate in relevant liturgical community gatherings throughout the year, e.g. Anzac Day Liturgy.

Prayer and Worship:

- Whole school masses/liturgies are held for special days in the Church calendar. Beginning of the Year ‘Leadership’ Mass, Sts Peter and Paul’s Feast Day, Ash Wednesday, Weekly Lenten assemblies, Holy Week, Easter, Anzac Day, Catholic Education Week, End of the School Year, are just some of these celebrations.
- Twice a week staff come together for prayer and reflection, prior to each staff briefing (Monday morning at 8:00am) and each staff meeting (Wednesday afternoon at 3:15pm).
- Classes are allocated a Mass (Years 4-6) or Liturgy (Prep to Year 3) during the year, presided over by the Parish Priest, Fr Tom Elich. Class teachers structure their Mass/Liturgy around significant events happening in the Church or community calendar, or a particular aspect of the Religion curriculum.
- Students in Years 4-6 have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance each year with their class.
- A Parish-based Sacramental Program for Year 3 students (Sacrament of Penance) and Year 4 students (Sacraments of Confirmation and Communion) is conducted during the Church’s Seasons of Lent (Penance) and Easter (Confirmation/Communion) and supported by the school staff.
- The school has a warm and close relationship with the Parish. Year 6 students assist with Sunday Children’s Liturgy; during the year the Parish invites each Year level to a special ‘Mass of Blessing’ at the Sunday morning Mass, followed by morning tea; a children’s choir sings once a month.
- Sts Peter and Paul’s makes use of contemporary Christian music, multimedia and hands-on ritual actions, together with the beautiful traditions of the Catholic faith.
Evangelisation and Faith Formation:

- Prayer as a first priority in times of both sadness and happiness.
- Classes are rostered on for Masses or Liturgies.
- Classes are rostered to lead Lenten Prayer assemblies each Wednesday throughout the Season of Lent.
- Whole school liturgical celebrations occur throughout the year, and are celebrated by the school and parish community.
- Outreach to Rosies and St Vincent de Paul Society creates a culture of hope, optimism, joy and inclusion that reflects the life of Jesus and the charism of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.
- The Catching Fire program provides professional learning opportunities in spiritual formation.
- Through engaging with The Leuven Project (ECSIP) priorities are being established for the resourcing of spiritual and faith formation initiatives, e.g. engaging in dialogue with Fr Tom Elich around the recontextualisation of the Church; developing and nurturing of staff theological understanding through formation.
- Year 6 students participate in World Day of Prayer.
- Year 6 students assist with Sunday Children’s Liturgy.

Social Action and Justice:

- An increasingly outstanding response by parents and students to appeals such Project Compassion, Rosies Friends of the Street, Shoebox Appeal for African children, Crayon collection to help refugee students at St Brendan’s Moorooka, St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal, Catholic Missions, the Good Samaritan Foundation helping the staff and children at the Good Samaritan Kindergarten in Kirabati. These appeals are led by the Year 6 Care and Concern Committee. These activities raise awareness as well as food and money for those in need.
- In Term 3 each year, the Year 6 classes have a Peace and Justice Day where funds are raised to support Catholic Missions, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Good Samaritan Foundation.
- The Care and Concern Committee is organized at 3 levels: Parish, School and Students. These committees provide assistance to families who need help. The student Care and Concern committee is very active in raising awareness of those in need both at the local and global level, and promotes activities in the school community that help raise funds for the poor and disadvantaged.
- Assistance is provided to refugee families, and those who struggle financially, being given practical and emotional support.
- Student Protection Posters are visible in every classroom and Student Protection lessons occur every year.

Sts Peter and Paul’s continues to build on the traditions established by the Good Samaritan Sisters. Their spirit of compassion and justice flows through the total school community and is further strengthened by the traditions established by the parents, staff and children for almost 100 years, living the school motto of “Learning Together for Life”.